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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UPW-01 IO-11
INRE-00 RSR-01 /086 W
059959

P R 180600Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0101
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL DANANG

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Susan Dyer DATE 6/24/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI-EXEMPTIONS

SUB: AN QUANG COMMUNIQUE ON PRESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM

REF: (A) SAIGON 14912 (B) STATE 171889

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: SEPTEMBER 16 AN QUANG BUDDHISTS ISSUED FORMAL COMMUNIQUE RECITING RECENT HISTORY OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS AND, AS IN 1967, CALLING UPON BUDDHISTS TO "DENY" THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. WHILE RELATIVELY MILD, LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE CLEARLY IMPLIES A BOYCOTT OF THE OCTOBER 3 VOTING. EMBASSY COMMENT ON GENERAL BUDDHIST RESPONSE TO RSUM FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION C AN QUANG'S SEPTEMBER 16 COMMUNIQUE. BEGIN TEXT: THE 1963 REVOLUTION WAS DISTORTED BY NGUYEN KHANH'S COUNTER-COUP. THE 1-REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS FROM 1964 TO 1966 WERE RAISED BY FOREIGN INFLUENCES, AND THUS LOST THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT.

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NATURALLY THESE AUTHORITIES WERE ILLEGAL.

3. FACING THIS SITUATION, IN 1966, THE CONGREGATION URGED BUDDHISTS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN OF ALL CIRCLES TO RISE UP TO DEMAND SOVEREIGNTY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUIONS. THE GOVERNMENT WHICH EXISTED THEN AND STILL EXISTS BLOODILY REPRESSED THIS MOVEMENT, AND GAVE BIRTH TO A PATCHWORK CONSTITUTION WITH A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH THE MAJORITY CONSISTING OF SERVANTS, A FALSE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION WHICH HAS LED THE COUNTRY INTO THIS PRESENT DARK SITUATION.

4. THE CHURCH DENIED THE 1967 ELECTION BECAUSE GOVERNMENT

OF THAT PERIOD DELIBERATELY DROVE IT INTO A NON-COOPERATION POSITION.

5. HOWEVER, THE CHURCH RESIGNED ITSELF TO THIS SITUATION, AWAITING A FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BUILDING OF THE COUNTRY. BUT EVERYONE REALIZES THAT DURING THE 4 PAST YEARS, THE CHURCH HAS EXISTED IN A CONTINUOUS STATE OF BEING CORNERED AND SABOTAGED IN EVERY ASPECT.

6. THE OCTOBER 3, 1971 ELECTION WHICH RESULTED FROM ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC LAWS HAS MET WITH THE NON-COOPERATION OF ALL WORTHY MEN AND INCREASINGLY OPPOSITION AMONG ALL CIRCLES OF THE POPULATION, AT HOME AND ABROAD, BECAUSE OF THE UNCONSTESTED RACE OF THE SINGLE GOVERNMENTAL SLATE.

7. A CONTINUATION OF THIS SITUATION WILL LEAD TO DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCE, MAKING THIS WEAK COUNTRY EVEN WEAKER, THE FIERCE WAR FIERCE AND THE ALREADY SUFFERING MASSES WILL SUFFER WITHOUT END.

8. EVENTUALLY, IT WILL RESULT IN A STATE OF COMPLETE EXHAUSTION IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL ASPECTS.

9. IN THE FACE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN DISREGARD OF PUBLIC OPINION, ONCE AGAIN, THE CHURCH APPEALS TO BUDDHISTS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN OF ALL CIRCLES WHO LOVE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY TO DENY THE FORTHCOMING OCTOBER 3 ELECTION.

10. WITH THE SITUATION AS IT NOW STANDS THE CHURCH DOES NOT

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ACCEPT ANY RATIONALIZATIONS OR ANY MEASURE DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION BECAUSE IT DEEMS THAT THE ELECTION IS NOT FREE, DEMOCRATIC, JUST AND HONEST AND BECAUSE IT (THE ELECTION) WILL NOT CREATE FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENDING OF THE WAR, THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY WHICH THE CHURCH HAS ADVOCATED IN THE PAST. END TEXT. BUNKER

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